(c) What is the estimated cost of the sorting machine to be insalled in Bombay;

(d) what is the total cost of installing the above machines in cities;

(e) whether there is any guarantee period for the above machines;

(f) whether the maintenance of the above machine/machines will be done by departmental employees or contractor/ concern from which it is to be purchased; and

(g) the authority that will be given the work of programming of discs required in the machines;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) It is targeted to instal automatic sorting machines at four places during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) The country or countries from which the equipment will be bought would be decided in due course on the basis of global tenders. Machines for the Bombay project arc being imported from Belgium.

(c) The cost of the sorting machines being installed at Bombay is approximately Rs. 9.8 crores on the basis of current exchange rates.

(d) Total cost of the project in a city including customs duty on equipment and other expenditure is estimated to be around Rs. 20 crores.

(e) Warranty period is one year from the date of acceptance of the machine.

(f) This being a sophisticated machine annual maintenance cannot be done by Departmental employees. Maintenance will be done either by supplier or by a specialised agency.

(g) Software is developed by the supplier as per the sorting programme decided upon by the Department.

**Display of Photograph of National Leaders in Department of Posts and Telecom**

3171. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inspection guidelines have been issued in the Department of Posts and Department of Telecom for display of the photographs of national leaders in office permises; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any ban to display/exhibit the portrait/photographs of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar in Office *permises/room/recreation dubs in Department* of Posts and *Department of* Telecom;

(c) if so, what arc the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, whether the portrait/ photographs of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar will be permitted to exhibit in Lucknow G.P.O. and other such offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (ci) No separate guidelines have been formulatd by the Department of Posts and Telecom regarding the display of the photographs of National Leaders in the office premises and both Departments only follow the orders issued in this regard by the Minsitry of Home Affairs.

**Publishing of Telephone Directories by MTNL**

3172. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL at Delhi and Bombay have been indicated for favouring a private firm in awarding contracts for publishing the telephone directories;

(b) if so, what arc the details thereof

(c) whether these acts of MTNL, Bombay and Delhi have caused lot of several crores to the public exchequer; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) Sir, the matter is now in the Supreme Court and therefore subjudice.

**Setting up of more Electronic Telephone Exchanges**

3173. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up more electronic telephone exchanges in the country during 1992-94 under the expansion programme, year-wise;

(b) whether any increase/cut is being effected in the quota meant for Rajasthan as well as Orissa in this regard; and

(c) if so, what' are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Waiting List for telephones in Districts of Gujarat**

3174. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the district-wise number of telephone subscribers at present in Gujarat;

(b) what is the district-wise number of persons on the waiting list at present; and

(c) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The information is given in the statement attached (See below)

(c) The Department of Telecom has formulated the 8th Five Year Plan which envisages:

— to provide telephone connections practically on demand in rural and tribal areas;

— waiting period for telephone connections not to exceed two years for large telephone systems;

— expansion programmes are being drawn accordingly for Gujarat telecom circle.

**Statement**

| | Names of District (SSA) | No. of Tele. Conns. working as on 31.10.92 | Total W/L as on 31.10.92 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ahmedabad | 170220 | 56176 |
| 2. | Baroda | 41033 | 32233 |
| 3. | Rajkot | 41375 | 12706 |
| 4. | Surat | 58479 | 50227 |
| 5. | Nadiad (Kheda) | 29263 | 3623 |
| 6. | Junagadh | 21187 | 2722 |